

Foreword

Established in 1943, the U.S. Army Engineer Studies Center (ESC) was one of the early study and analysis agencies within the Department of Defense. During the more than 40 years of its history, ESC has studied a wide variety of the defense issues that have confronted the U.S. Army and the Corps of Engineers since World War II. While many of the 350 studies produced since 1955 have concentrated on Engineer and Engineer-related problems, ESC has also examined strategic and tactical nuclear weapons targeting, general purpose force requirements and structuring, chemical and biological weapons, and strategic mobility. Although the center has always been a small organization, its studies have covered a wide range of important defense problems.

In this history, Dr. Baldwin traces the development of ESC as an organization and analyzes the evolution of its study program from 1943 to 1982. The quality of its studies and the effect of its work on the Army and the Corps indicate the important role that a study and analysis agency can play in the development and implementation of national defense policy.



Robert D. Carpenter
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commander/Director

The Author

William C. Baldwin is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and obtained his Ph.D. degree in military history from the University of Michigan. He is presently an historian in the Historical Division of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.